WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

International services from non-metro cities

3951. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of non-metro cities linked to international destinations now; and

(b) how many more such cities will be added in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Besides Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad, 15 other cities *viz.* Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Pune, Thiruvananthpuram, Trichy and Varanasi are linked to international destinations.

Actual operations by any airlines including our national carrier from any particular point is always guided by its commercial judgement depending upon commercial viability, traffic demand and fleet size.

Air services to Varanasi and Kathmandu

†3952. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flight from New Delhi to Varanasi and Kathmandu has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to restore the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines operates daily services between Delhi-Varanasi and Delhi-Kathmandu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.